



**United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service, Science and Technology
Microbiological Data Program
Commodity Fact Sheet**

(Rev 3, 4/19/07)



- **PRODUCT:** Fresh Pre-Cut Bagged Lettuce (LB)
- **ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS:** Pre-Cut bagged lettuce containing any lettuce variety or mixes of lettuce varieties. Bag may also contain any of the following: endive, escarole, radicchio, herbs, celery, or other “leafy vegetables” listed in 40 CFR, except spinach. Domestic or imported. Organically grown varieties are acceptable. NOTE: *Sealed* dressing, croutons, or cheese packets inside the larger lettuce bag are acceptable, provided they are not mixed with or leaking into the lettuce. Any packets will be discarded at the lab.
- **UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS:** Spinach; root vegetables (carrots, radishes, etc.); brassica group vegetables (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, mustard greens, etc.); nuts; croutons; cheeses; meats (bacon, ham, etc.); whole uncut lettuce heads; pre-cut lettuce from salad bars; unbagged loose lettuce
- **SPECIAL E-SIF REQUIREMENTS:**
 1. *Ingredients—List in Comments Field*
 2. *Expiration Date—Write in Comments Field (Ex: Exp 4/19/07)*
- **AVAILABILITY:** Year round
- **SAMPLE SIZE:** Minimum: 3.5 ounces (100 grams). **MUST INCLUDE 3 LAB-SAMPLES PER SITE-SAMPLE.** *Sub-sampling of a large bag is unacceptable. All bags must remain sealed.*
- **PACKAGING AND SHIPPING:** Samples must remain properly cooled during shipping. Use a sufficient number of ice packs in each shipping container to keep the produce at refrigerated temperatures. Lettuce is easily damaged by freezing—do not place ice pack directly next to lettuce. Desired holding temperature: 0-2° C or 32-34°F.
- **ETHYLENE PRODUCER/SENSITIVE:** Sensitive. However, if samples are bagged with no holes in the plastic, sensitivity is not relevant.

NOTE: If pre-cut bagged lettuce samples cannot be found at primary or alternate sites, they may be collected from a “proxy” site (retail store, local producer). This exception is allowable only for bagged lettuce and alfalfa sprouts. When collected at a proxy site, packages must be collected in a rear storage area where the consumer does not normally have access. *Before collection day arrives, it is advantageous to call ahead to check on availability.*

This fact sheet is to be used in conjunction with all applicable MDP Standard Operating Procedures [http:// www.ams.usda.gov/science/MPO/SOPs.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/MPO/SOPs.htm)

